

In re Patent Application of:  
**BRIEF ET AL**  
Serial No. 10/816,323  
Filed: 04/01/2004

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REMARKS

Prior to the present amendment, claims 1-14 were pending. With the foregoing amendments to the claims, which includes the cancellation of claims 2 and 10, and the addition of new dependent claims 15 and 16, claims 1, 3-9 and 11-16 are currently pending.

The notice of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7 and 10-14 is gratefully appreciated.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application to a favorable conclusion, applicants have incorporated features of the objected to dependent claims into respective independent claims 1 and 8, so as to define subject matter which is believed to have been recognized to be patentable in the outstanding Office Action.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected claim 2, with the recited "generally inverted L-shaped rails" being characterized as "cover retention elements." The configuration of these cover retention elements as L-shaped rails has been more particularly defined by newly added dependent claim 15.

Similarly, independent claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected to claim 10, again with the "generally inverted L-shaped rails" being characterized as "cover retention elements", the specific L-shaped rail configuration of which is recited in newly added dependent claim 16.

As noted above, applicants have inferred that it has been recognized in the outstanding Office Action that the cited prior

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art does not disclose a module architecture in which the base member includes a pair of cover retention elements, either configured as L-shaped rails or otherwise, that extend above the side walls of opposite sides of ferrule retention cavity and are configured to allow the cover to be placed upon and slide upon the top surface of the base member, so that the cover may be retained between the cover retention element and the top surface of the base member, as recited in the amended independent claims 1 and 8. This architecture and functionality of the invention is described, for example, in paragraph [029] of the present specification.

Instead, the module architecture described the Japanese Publication to Fujiwara et al, '968, places the modules within an internal housing 23, the internal housing, in turn, being inserted into an external housing 21.

In the module architecture described in the patent to Ogawa et al, '023, the optical module/connector arrangement is inserted into an adapter 5A, upon which a cover 6A is placed. The cover 6A is held against the adapter by engagement portions 64 that protrude from leg portions extending from the bottom of the cover 6A.

The patent to Shiraishi et al, '960, has been cited for its disclosure of a bias compression spring 28 described in column 7, lines 30-32, of the patent as being disposed between a pusher body 27 and a receiver body 25 for pushing them away from each other. The architecture of amended claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed or suggested by Shiraishi et al.

In view of the manner in which independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate subject matter of dependent claims, which is not found in the cited prior art and which

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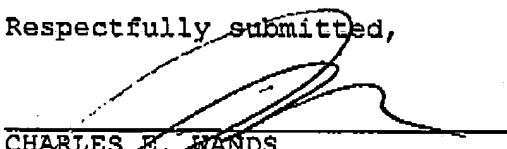
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applicants have inferred has been recognized in the outstanding Office Action to be allowable, favorable reconsideration of this application and a Notice of Allowability of claims 1, 3-9 and 11-16, are respectfully requested.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-0870 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-9300 to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, this 26 day of April 2006.

  
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